



St Paul's Way

Aspiration • Integrity • Community

PART OF UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS TRUST

Year 9 Pathways

2026

A Guide for Students and Parents



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Introduction

Dear Year 9 Students, Parents and Carers,

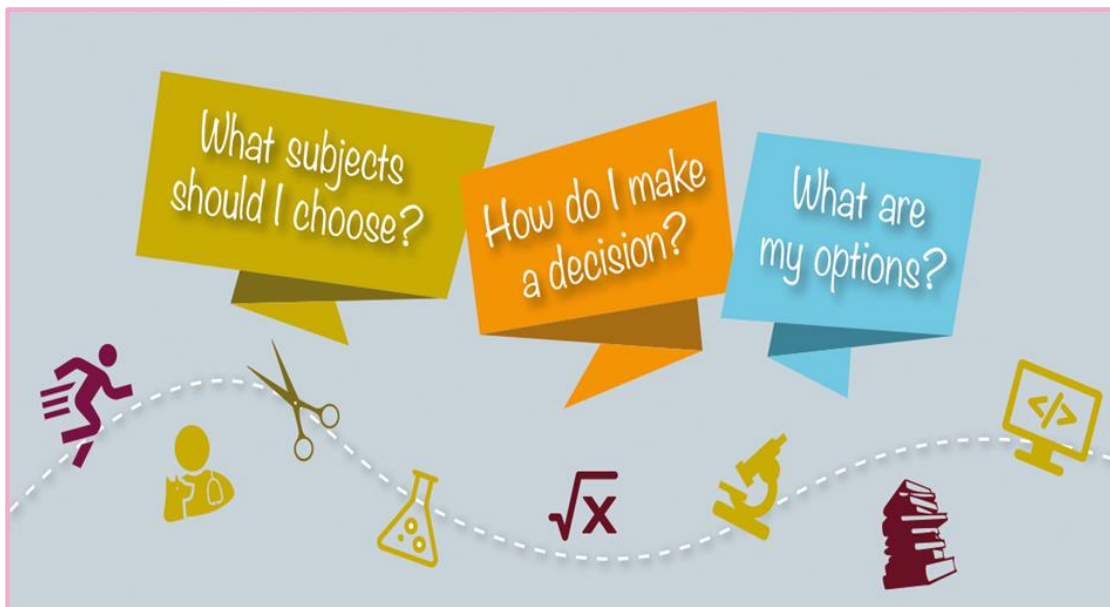
This booklet is designed to help you and your family make decisions about the next stage of your education. Please do take time to read through this booklet with your parents or carer.

To choose the right pathway you will not only need to think about the GCSE courses that you would like to follow but also start to consider what you would like to do after Year 11, A-Levels, BTECs, apprenticeships, college, university, career.

It may seem there is much to take in at this stage, but there are many people at St Paul's Way School to advise and guide you. The main points of contact are; Miss M Ahmed, Year Team Leader for Year 9, Mr A Gonzalez, Student Achievement Coordinator, Ms El-Ouaraini, Careers Education and Guidance Manager and Mr M Williams, Director of Learning.

The Year 9 Pathways Event is the first opportunity for you and your families to learn about the options process for our Year 9 students. Since November, students will have received information during assemblies and tutor time to help them reach a decision on which pathway is suited to their abilities and career aspirations.

Miss M Ahmed
Year 9 Team Leader





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Message from Ms Uddin, Head of School

Dear SPW Year 9s,

You have reached an exciting time in your education. At this stage you will now have more choice in the subjects you will be studying over the next two years and therefore building on the career path in which you are interested. This is probably one of the first instances where you hold such responsibility for yourselves. This is an exciting prospect, if possibly a little daunting, however remember that the highly experienced SPW staff will be supporting you at every step. Life presents many challenges but together we can learn and grow stronger from these experiences, rather than letting them diminish our resolve and enthusiasm.

Consider the selection of your subjects carefully, that your individual subjects and the combination of subjects are appropriate to your interests and talents and that they are relevant to your further study Post -16 and at university or in the apprenticeship route / future career to which you aspire.

This booklet will provide the information you will need in considering your options. I wish you all the best for this significant time in your life.

Remember...

"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think."

A.A Milne

Ms Uddin
Head of School

Making Choices

Choosing Your Pathway

CORE CURRICULUM

All students follow the core curriculum which includes Maths, Science and English. This is designed so you can acquire the skills and qualifications that you will need for the future, whatever you decide to do. You will have started your RE GCSE course in Year 9 and will take the exam at the end of Year 10. You will also have 2 periods of PE every fortnight - to keep you healthy in body as well as mind.

FURTHER OPTIONS

You will also have an element of choice involved when choosing your options. During Year 7 to Year 9, you will have followed the school's curriculum and have had the opportunity to explore the various subjects the school has to offer. This now means that, for the first time you can shape aspects of your own learning in Key Stage 4, according to your interests, future education and career aspirations.

Core Subjects	Languages	Humanities	Business & Computer studies	Creative Arts & Technology	Physical Education
Maths English Language English Literature Science (Combined or Triple) PE (Non-Exam)	French Spanish	History Geography	iMedia Computer Science Business Studies	Art Photography Food & Nutrition Design & Technology Drama Music	BTEC Sport

Further Guidance

How can I develop my skills through different subjects?

English	Mathematics	Science	Art/ Design and Technology	Music	IT
Analytical Speaking Listening Communication Creativity	Problem-Solving Critical Thinking	Research Teamwork Communication	Creativity Problem-Solving Critical Thinking Hand-Eye Coordination	Creativity Culture Critical Thinking Teamwork Independence Communication	Technician Numeracy Analytical Organisation Problem-Solving

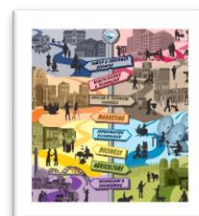
PE	Drama	Business	Languages	History	Geography
Leadership Teamwork Decision-making	Communication Teamwork Creative	Communication Independence/ Teamwork Analytical Writing	Interpersonal Skills Communication Attention to Detail	Research Independence Empathy	Teamwork Problem-Solving Data Collection

Pathways

Points to consider in creating your pathway:

- What do you want to do *after your GCSEs*? If you are planning to take A-levels and then go to university, following one of the EBacc pathways is your best choice. It keeps all your options open and develops the skills that you will need for further academic study
- Select subjects that you *enjoy* studying - you are going to be spending a lot of time on them over the next 2 years!
- Focus on subjects at which you are *good* - you want the best grades that you can achieve
- Do NOT be swayed by what your friends are doing - now is the time to *start being a strong and independent individual*. This is your life, and you need to shape it in *the best way for you*. What might be a good pathway for your friend, might not necessarily be for you! Everyone is different.

There are 3 main pathways between which you can choose:



1. English Baccalaureate (EBacc) Pathway:

This pathway is recommended for the majority of students. It provides a balanced curriculum that will leave your options open for A-levels, university and careers. You will do Combined Science and receive 2 GCSEs and you will then need to choose one humanities subject (either Geography or History) and one language (French or Spanish). You can then choose any third subject.

Core subjects	English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE Mathematics GCSE Combined Science GCSE (Two GCSEs) RE GCSE (completed in Year 10)
Humanities	Geography or History GCSE
Languages	French or Spanish GCSE
Options Subjects	iMedia, Computer Science GCSE, Business Studies GCSE, Art GCSE, Photography GCSE, Food & Nutrition GCSE, Design & Technology GCSE, Drama GCSE, Music GCSE, Sport BTEC
Total Number of GCSEs	9 GCSEs or equivalent qualifications

2. Faraday EBacc Pathway:

This is for students who have a particular interest and ability in science. You will be studying Triple Science and receive 3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will then need to choose one humanities subject (either Geography or History) and one language (French or Spanish).

Please note to follow this pathway you should speak to your science teacher to see if you are a suitable candidate.

Core subjects	English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE Mathematics GCSE Biology GCSE Chemistry GCSE Physics GCSE RE GCSE (completed in Year 10)
Humanities	Geography or History GCSE
Languages	French or Spanish GCSE
Total Number of GCSEs	9 GCSEs or equivalent qualifications

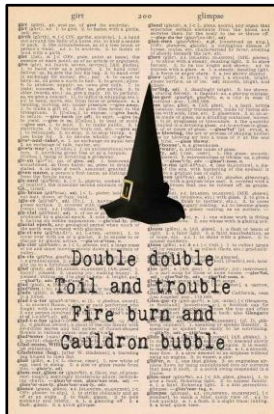
3. Blended Pathway:

This pathway is a bespoke pathway for students who will study a combination of subjects outside of the EBacc or Faraday pathway. Please speak with the year team and the AEN department if you would like support with your options choices for this pathway.

Core subjects	English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE Mathematics GCSE Combined Science GCSE (Two GCSEs) RE GCSE (completed in Year 10)
Options Subjects	iMedia, Computer Science GCSE, Business Studies GCSE, Art GCSE, Photography GCSE, Textiles GCSE, Food & Nutrition GCSE, Design & Technology GCSE, Drama GCSE, Music GCSE, BTEC Sport



GCSE English Literature (AQA)



GCSE English Literature will offer you the opportunity to study classic literature, contemporary novels, plays and poetry. Not only will you learn how the English language can be used for expressive and dramatic effect, but you will also explore the world from a range of perspectives, through different eras and cultures.

COURSE OUTLINE

This course is 100% exams at the end of Year 11. All students will sit the same exams; **there are no tiers**. All exams are closed text, which means students will not have a copy of the text with them during the exam.

EXAM STRUCTURE

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the Nineteenth-Century Novel (*written exam – 40%*)
(1 hour 45 minutes)

Section A – Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their choice of play. They will be required to write on an extract from the play and link it to the text as a whole. The text we study is *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare.

Section B – The Nineteenth-Century novel: students will answer one question on their novel. They will be required to write on an extract from the play and link it to the text as a whole. The text we study is *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry (*written exam – 60%*) (2 hours 15 minutes)

Section A – Modern texts: students will answer one essay question on the play. The text we study is *An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestley.

Section B – Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster. The cluster we study is Power & Conflict poetry.

Section C – Unseen Poetry: students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

GCSE Mathematics (Edexcel)

Maths is one of the core subjects all students must study and, along with GCSE English Language, it is one of your most important subjects. This course will teach you a wide range of mathematical skills and knowledge:

- To acquire and use problem-solving strategies
- To select and apply mathematical techniques and methods in mathematical, every day and real-world situations
- To reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions
- To interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

The new maths curriculum grades pupils using a 1-9 scale. Most sixth forms and colleges require you to have at least a grade 6 in Mathematics to continue studying it at A-level. This will lead to many career options, either way, it is vital that you are confident in using numbers and in applying your numeracy skills in everyday situations.

COURSE OUTLINE

The content of the GCSE Maths course is divided into six strands. Topic areas covered are:

- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry & Measures
- Statistics & Probability
- Ratio, Proportions and Rates of Change.

Functional skills are also taught and you will have opportunities to explore mathematical activities in a range of real-life contexts.

Mathematics GCSE qualification has two tiers: Higher and Foundation.

EXAM STRUCTURE

Your progress throughout Year 10 and Year 11 will be used to determine the tier for which you should be entered.

For both tiers, students will sit 3 exam papers:

- Paper 1 (Non-Calculator) **33.3%** (1 hour 30 minutes)
- Paper 2 (Calculator) **33.3%** (1 hour 30 minutes)
- Paper 3 (Calculator) **33.3%** (1 hour 30 minutes)



GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy (AQA)

Science is a core component of the KS4 curriculum. You will learn about the world around you gaining scientific knowledge, understanding and skills. You will develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods, exploring a range of scientific ideas and their implications for society. The skills, knowledge and understanding that you will acquire throughout this course will help you to appreciate how science works and its essential role in the wider world. Most students will study **GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy** will count as 2 GCSEs.

COURSE OUTLINE

Combined Science Course Content		
Biology	Chemistry	Physics
1. Cells 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis 6. Inheritance, Variation and Evolution 7. Ecology	1. Atoms, Bonding and Moles 2. Chemical Reactions and Energy Changes 3. Rates, Equilibrium and Organic Chemistry 4. Analysis and the Earth's Resources	1. Energy and Energy Resources 2. Electricity 3. Particles at Work 4. Forces in Action 5. Waves, electromagnetism

EXAM STRUCTURE

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

- Biology Paper 1 and Paper 2 (1 hour 15 minutes each)
- Chemistry Paper 1 and Paper 2 (1 hour 15 minutes each)
- Physics Paper 1 and Paper 2 (1 hour 15 minutes each).



Each exam has an equal weighting, and the course has 2 tiers - higher and foundation.

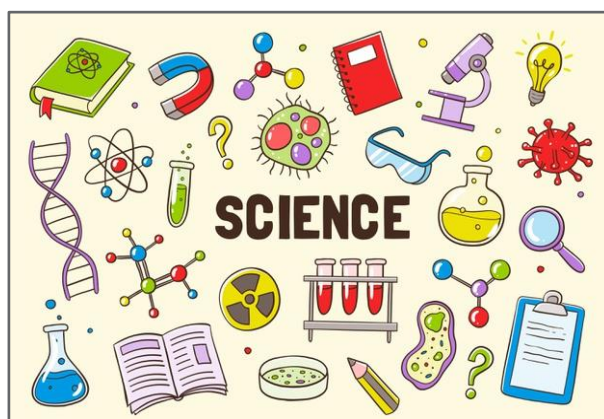


GCSE Triple Science (AQA)

If you are particularly interested in science and have achieved a high level in your KS3 assessments, you may wish to consider studying triple science where you will gain 3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will study the same topics as the ones in the trilogy course, however, you will be covering more sub-topics and content.

You must be recommended by your science teacher to choose this option and show additional commitment to the subject.

Choosing triple science is useful if you are considering focusing on sciences at A-level, but it is also possible to study A levels in any of the sciences after studying GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy.



COURSE OUTLINE

Triple Science Course Content		
Biology	Chemistry	Physics
1. Cells 2. Organisation 3. Infection and Response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis 6. Inheritance, Variation and Evolution 7. Ecology	1. Atoms, Bonding and Quantitative Chemistry 2. Chemical Reactions and Energy Changes 3. Rates, Equilibrium and Organic Chemistry 4. Analysis and the Earth's Resources	1. Energy and Energy Resources 2. Electricity 3. Particles at Work 4. Forces in Action 5. Waves, Electromagnetism and Space

EXAM STRUCTURE

GCSE Triple Science

- Biology Paper 1 and Paper 2 (1 hour 45 minutes each)
- Chemistry Paper 1 and Paper 2 (1 hour 45 minutes each)
- Physics Paper 1 and Paper 2 (1 hour 45 minutes each).



GCSE Religious Studies (AQA)

Students would have already begun their RE GCSE in Year 9 and complete this in Year 10. Our GCSE covers Islam and Christianity, four contemporary ethical themes, ensuring students have a diverse choice of intriguing subjects to explore.

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues.



Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

COURSE OUTLINE and EXAM STRUCTURE

Unit 1: The study of Religions (written exam - 50%)

- Christian beliefs and teachings
- Christian practices
- Islamic beliefs and teachings
- Islamic practices.

Unit 2: Thematic Studies (written exam - 50%)

- Relationships and families
- Religion and life
- Religion of crime and punishment
- Religion, peace and conflict.



BTEC Tech Award in Sport

(Edexcel)

If you enjoy PE and are interested in challenging yourself to study the subject at a more advanced level, then this course is for you! During the course you will learn about the sports world and how to encourage participation in the sporting industry. You will also cover how Technology has a big impact on the sporting world and how this can be utilised to benefit athletes. This course will cover scientific elements in the human body as well as the components of fitness which allow our body to function. During your time on the course, you will also discover the coaching/teaching element where you will be delivering a sports session to a class to get hands on experience of the coaching and teaching industry, this is a course not to be missed!

These include:

COURSE OUTLINE & ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE



BTEC Tech Award in Sport (Edexcel)

Practical Performance

- 1- Assessed practically in 1 sport
- 2- Assessed practically delivering a warm-up in 1 sport
- 3- Assessed Practically delivering a lesson in 1 sport

Written Exam

1 Written exam
40% of overall grade

Written Coursework

60% of overall grade (2 units)

Academic Pathway: This course can lead onto a Level 3 BTEC in Sport (which is now running in the 6th form at SPW) or A level course in PE or Sports Science. This could then lead onto an apprenticeship or university and/or a career in the sports/fitness industry.



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GCSE Geography (Edexcel)

This GCSE qualification will enable students to explore the world, the issues it faces and their own place in it, and to help prepare them to succeed in any future chosen pathway.

To be successful in this GCSE qualification, students need to have an interest in current world events, possess strong literacy skills coupled with a thirst for geographical facts and have developed analytical skills. This specification asks for students to write in detail whilst showing an understanding of key global and local case studies covering all topics.

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: Global Geographical Issues

- Hazardous Earth
- Development Dynamics
- Challenges of an Urbanising World.

Unit 2: Making Geographical Issues

- The UK's evolving physical landscape (coastal change and conflict and river processes and pressures)
- The UK's evolving human landscape and geographical investigations (including one physical fieldwork - coasts - and one human fieldwork investigations - urban study).

Unit 3: Making Geographical Decisions

- People and the Biosphere
- Forests Under Threat
- Consuming Energy Resources



EXAM STRUCTURE

- Paper 1 - Global Geographical Issues (1 hour 30 minutes-37.5%)
- Paper 2 - UK Geographical Issues (1 hour 30 minutes - 37.5%)
- Paper 3 - Making Geographical Decisions (1 hour 30 minutes - 25%).

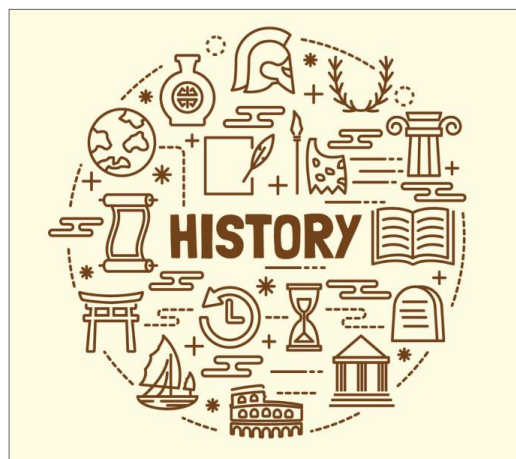
Academic Pathway: GCSE Geography is a facilitating subject and will look excellent to potential A level colleges, apprenticeships, and potential employees.



GCSE History (Edexcel)

In GCSE History, students will acquire the skills and knowledge to engage with and understand a fast-changing world. This GCSE qualification will engage students with a broad and diverse study of the history of Britain and the wider world and help to acquire skills that will support progression to further study of history as well as a wide range of other subjects.

To be successful in this GCSE qualification students need to have an interest in historical events, have strong literacy skills and have developed reading skills. This specification asks for students to write extensively and with analytical skill.



COURSE OUTLINE & EXAM STRUCTURE

Unit 1: Migrants in Britain, c800 to present and Notting Hill, c1948-70

Thematic study and historic environment

30% of the qualification.

Unit 2: Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88

British depth study

20% of the qualification.

Unit 3: Weimer and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

Modern depth study

30% of the qualification.

Unit 4: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 194-91

Period study

20% of the qualification.

Academic pathway: GCSE History is a facilitating subject and will look excellent to potential A level colleges, apprenticeships, and potential employees. The History qualification will show all potential pathways that successful candidates have strong analytical and academic skills.



GCSE French (AQA)

Modern Foreign Languages are increasingly important for today's young people. Being an integral part of the English Baccalaureate, a GCSE in French will equip you with a skill that can be utilised in countless careers. French is the ninth most spoken language with over 200 million speakers worldwide. Students with an additional language have a substantial range of opportunities open to them and will be well placed in completing for the best university courses.



The aim of our French department is to develop competence in oral and written communication, so that you become confident in dealing with a range of authentic listening and reading material and gain a sound working knowledge of basic grammatical structures. You will also learn a considerable amount about English through your study of French, as well as gaining an insight into the cultures of French-speaking countries.

Learning a language happens most effectively when regular exposure takes place, and our staff use French for much of the teaching.

COURSE OUTLINE

Students study all the following themes on which the assessments are based:

- Theme 1: Identity and culture
- Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

EXAM STRUCTURE

GCSE French has 2 tiers - Foundation (Maximum Grade 5) and Higher (Grades 4-9).

Paper 1: Listening (Written Exam 25%) (F: 35 minutes, H: 45 minutes)

Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.

Paper 2: Speaking (25%) (F: 7-9 minutes, H: 10-12 minutes)

Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes. Students will have to take part in a role-play, a photo card activity and a general conversation.

Paper 3: Reading (Written Exam 25%) (F: 45 minutes, H: 1 hour)

Understanding and responding to different types of written language, including a translation from the target language into English.

Paper 4: Writing (Written Exam 25%)

Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.



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GCSE Spanish (AQA)

Modern Foreign Languages are increasingly important for today's young people. As an integral part of the English Baccalaureate, a GCSE in Spanish will equip you with a skill that can be utilised in countless careers. Spanish is the fourth most spoken language in the world with over 400 million speakers worldwide. Students with an additional language have an ample range of opportunities open to them and will be well placed in competing for the best university courses.



The aim of our Spanish department is to develop competence in oral and written communication, so that you become confident in dealing with a range of authentic listening and reading material and gain a sound working knowledge of basic grammatical structures. You will also learn a considerable amount about English through your study of Spanish, as well as gaining an insight into the cultures of Spanish speaking countries.

Learning a language happens most effectively where regular exposure takes place, and our staff use Spanish for much of the teaching.

COURSE OUTLINE

Students study all the following themes on which the assessments are based:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

Assessments

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

Paper 1: Listening (25% of GCSE)

Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.

Assessed through a written exam; 35 minutes (Foundation Tier) 45 minutes (Higher Tier).

Paper 2: Speaking (25% of GCSE)

Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes. The format is the same for both Foundation and Higher Tier, but with different



stimulus. Students will have to take part in a role-play (15 marks), a photo card activity (15 marks) and a general conversation (30 marks).

Students will speak for 7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier) and 10 – 12 minutes (Higher Tier).

Paper 3: Reading (25% of GCSE)

Understanding and responding to different types of written language, including a translation from the target language into English.

Assessed through a written exam; 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 60 minutes (Higher Tier).

Paper 4: Writing (25% of GCSE)

Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

In Foundation Tier there are four questions: Question 1 – list task, Question 2 – message (60 words), Question 3 – translation from English into target language (35 words), and Question 4 – structured writing (90 words).

In the Higher tier there are three questions: Question 1 –structured writing (90 words), Question 2 – open-ended writing (150 words), Question 3 – translation from English into the target language (50 words).



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GCSE Music (Edexcel)

GCSE Music is a challenging, well-respected, and highly enjoyable course through which you will develop a wide range of skills which you will find useful in your future academic studies and career. Through learning an instrument or singing you will show future employers/universities that you have the discipline and commitment it takes to develop a skill and perform music to a high standard. Composition will show that you have engaged your creative side and that you have developed your imagination whilst meeting a detailed brief. Music is an academic as well as a practical subject; the listening and appraising skills that you will develop will be invaluable to you. Students who opt for GCSE Music go on to pursue a range of careers, including music, medicine, law, music therapy, teaching, arts and artist management and film production. Additionally, students who learn an instrument have been consistently shown to do better in their other GCSE examinations. The course includes opportunities to go and see live performances of the set works, including the West End production of *Wicked*, and the London Philharmonic Orchestra. You are also provided with free one-to-one tuition on an instrument of your choice as part of the GCSE programme.

COURSE OUTLINE & EXAM STRUCTURE

Unit 1: Performing (*coursework – 30%*)

You will be provided with free one-to-one individual instrumental/vocal lessons throughout the course, as well as additional performance opportunities both internally and externally. For your coursework submission, you will record 1 solo piece and 1 piece as part of an ensemble.

Unit 2: Composing (*coursework – 30%*)

Throughout the course, you will learn how to extend and shape your own musical ideas, developing a range of compositional techniques. You will submit 2 compositions, one to a chosen brief and one in any style of your choosing.

Unit 3: Listening & Appraising (*written exam – 40%*)

For this part of the course, you will explore 8 set works that cover 4 areas of study:

- Instrumental Music 1700-1820
- Vocal Music
- Music for Stage and Screen
- Fusions.





GCSE Drama (Eduqas)

Should you opt for drama you will have the opportunity to be creative and practical. Your communication skills will be developed, and this will enable you to become more articulate in your speech. You will also hone the skills needed to work cooperatively as part of a team. By the end of the course your confidence will have grown, and every successful doctor, lawyer and accountant needs confidence!

But it is not all about performing. There is a written component for the drama course, which is similar to GCSE English Literature, so be prepared to work with the same level of focus and commitment. For students less keen on acting, there is a design pathway option where you can explore sound, lighting, costume or set design, rather than acting. As a drama student you will have the opportunity to attend West End theatre productions, take part in performance workshops with professional theatre practitioners and present your work in our state-of-the art Willoughby Theatre.

COURSE OUTLINE

In drama your practical and written skills will be assessed.

Component One - Devising Theatre (*coursework - 40%*)

You will work with others to create an original piece of drama from scratch. You will then submit a portfolio of supporting evidence and a written evaluation of the process.

Component Two - Performing from a Text (*practical exam - 20%*)

This is a practical exam, and you will be assessed on your ability to stage and act or design scenes from an existing play text.

Component Three - Interpreting Theatre (*written exam - 40%*)

You will have a written examination which is based on a set play text and an analysis of a live theatre performance.



GCSE Business (Edexcel)

Business is everywhere and by studying this subject, you will be able to invest in your future.

GCSE Business will enable you to apply your knowledge to contemporary issues and to various types and sizes of businesses. You will gain a solid understanding of the main areas within a business like examining a business's financial position or thinking about the decisions a business can take when they are marketing a new product or finally, analysing how global events can affect businesses.

How will it help me with my future?

As a business student, you will be valued for your ability to think commercially and creatively. The world of work will appreciate your business acumen and your ability to draw on evidence to make informed business decisions and solve business problems.

Many of our previous students at SPW have decided to further their understanding of business and the wider environment by studying **A-level Economics** at Sixth Form. GCSE Business is an excellent platform for those considering entering the world of business management, financial services or law. However, as discussed earlier, the skills and knowledge you gain can be applied to other career pathways. This subject is also perfect for those thinking about starting their own businesses.

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: Investigating Small Business (*written exam - 50%*)

Concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for students to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business.

Unit 2: Building a Business (*written exam - 50%*)

Examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with an emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. It also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows.



GCSE Computer Science (OCR)

This course, which is part of the English Baccalaureate, gives students a truly in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and offers an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming. Studying GCSE Computer Science is a great way to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills, which can be transferred to further learning and to everyday life. The course will provide a stepping-stone for students who want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of computer science.



COURSE OUTLINE

Component 01: Computer systems - 80 marks 1 hour 30 mins 50% Calculators not allowed. Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Component 02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - 80 marks 1 hour 30 mins 50% Calculators not allowed. Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

Practical programming: Students are to be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills by designing, writing, testing and refining programs using a high-level programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, in particular component 02 (section B).



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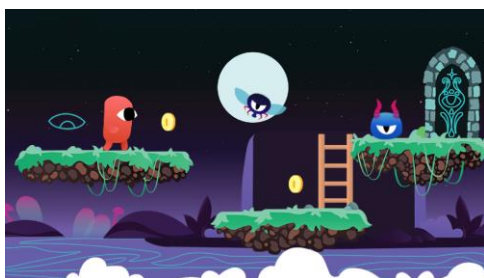
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Creative iMedia (ICT) (OCR Vocational)

Creative iMedia will inspire and equip you with the confidence to use skills that are relevant to the digital media sector and the wider industry. The qualification will provide you with essential knowledge, transferable skills, and tools to improve your learning in other subjects with the aim of enhancing your employability when you leave education as well as contributing to your personal development and future economic well-being. The qualification will encourage independence, creativity and awareness of the digital media sector.



As part of the course, you'll learn:

- How media products get their meaning across, create impact & appeal to people
- How to create original digital graphics for specific audiences
- Creating, testing and making playable digital games

COURSE OUTLINE

R093: Pre-production skills (*written exam, 48GLH - 40%*)

Students are introduced to a range of essential pre-production techniques used in the creative and digital media, including client brief, time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques.

R094: Visual Identity & Digital Graphics (*centre assessed, externally moderated, 30GLH - 25%*)

In this unit you will learn how to develop visual identities for clients. You will also learn to apply the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics which incorporate your visual identity to engage a target audience. Completing this unit will introduce the foundations for further study or a wide range of job roles within the media industry

R099: Digital Games (*centre assessed, externally moderated, 42GLH - 35%*)

In this unit you will learn to interpret client briefs to devise original digital game concepts. You will learn to plan digital games effectively and to use a Game Design Document to create engagement among developers and clients. You will learn to create, edit, test and export playable digital games which you have designed. Completing this unit will provide you with the basic skills for further study or a range of creative and technical job roles within the media industry.



GCSE Design and Technology

(Eduqas)

This course offers a unique opportunity for you to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products. Through studying Design and Technology, you will be prepared to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world; and be aware of and learn from the wider influences on design and technology, including historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors.

The specification enables you to work creatively when designing and making and applying technical and practical expertise, to:

- Develop realistic design proposals as a result of the exploration of design opportunities and users' needs, wants and values.
- Use imagination, experimentation and combine ideas when designing.
- Develop the skills to critique and refine your ideas whilst designing and making.
- Communicate design ideas and decisions using different media and techniques including sketching, model making and prototyping.
- Develop decision making skills, including the planning and organisation of time and resources when managing your own project work.
- Develop a broad knowledge of materials, components and technologies and practical skills to develop high quality, imaginative and functional prototypes.
- Consider the costs, commercial viability and marketing of products.

This course can lead to a range of level three and University degree courses such as: Product Design, Architecture, and a wide range of Engineering disciplines across all industries.

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century (*Written Exam – 50%*)

Unit 2: Design and Make Task, approximately 35 hours (*non-exam assessment – 50%*)

A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by WJEC, assessing candidates' ability to:

- Identify, investigate, and outline design possibilities
- Design and make prototypes
- Analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology.



GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition (Eduqas)

During this course you will develop your knowledge and understanding of cooking in a creative, practical environment. You will develop the skills needed to produce high quality dishes with a deep understanding of the scientific principles involved within the process. By studying food preparation and nutrition you will:

- Be able to demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks
- Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- Understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food
- Understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international) to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.

This course can lead to a range of level three and University degree courses such as Food Science, Food and Nutrition, Hospitality and Catering. With potential careers in Food Design and Manufacture, Nutrition, and a wide range of work in hospitality and catering.

COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition (*written exam - 50%*)

Unit 2: Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action (*non-exam assessment - 50%*)

Assessment 1 (8 hours): The Food Investigation Assessment

A scientific food investigation - Looking at your knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles of preparing and cooking of food.

Assessment 2 (12 hours): The Food Preparation Assessment

Prepare, cook, and present a menu based on a brief given by the exam board.



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GCSE Art (Edexcel)

In this course you will study drawing, painting, collage, printmaking and various sculpture techniques. You will also learn about artists from other eras and cultures through visiting galleries and museums in London. You will learn to work with a wide variety of media to develop your skills and techniques. This course, therefore, is an excellent base for students wishing to pursue a career in art or design-based industries and can lead to a range of level three and University degree courses. These could include gallery/museum management, architecture, fashion, advertising, animation, games designer, photojournalism, 3-D industry, illustration, printer, studio painter. Much of the work you do in this course will already be familiar to you as it leads on (at a much higher level) from the work you completed in KS3.

COURSE OUTLINE

Component 1: Personal Portfolio (*coursework – 60%*)

This portfolio will contain all your artwork produced during Y10 and 11. You will be expected to research themes, develop personal ideas and make observations related to artists that you have studied. You will explore your own ideas and develop your skills using different media and techniques. Your supporting studies are as important as the finished pieces and so your books should be full! It is essential that your work is always presented to a high standard.



Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (*exam – 40%*)



The assignment consists of a broad-based thematic starting point set by the exam board. The topic will be given to you in early February of Year 11 and you will have eight weeks of preparation time before a final ten-hour exam. Again, your preparatory material, sketches and research are as important as your final piece of work.



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GCSE Photography (Edexcel)

In this course you will study the key skills of digital and analogue photography. You will learn how to use a 35mm camera (SLR) to take your own photographs and how to develop them in the darkroom. You will also learn how to use a digital camera (DSLR), including how to take and download digital images and how to manipulate your images using software packages such as Photoshop. During the course you will also learn how to manipulate your photographs using a variety of materials and techniques. You will have the opportunity to work with visiting professional photographers when applicable. You will also visit exhibitions and galleries across London so that you can learn from and be inspired by other photographers'/artists' work. You will be expected to undertake independent research and keep workbooks throughout the duration of the course.

This course, therefore, is an excellent base for students wishing to pursue a career in design-based industries and can lead to a range of level three and University degree courses such as Photography, Animation and Film making. Careers in photography include advertising, commercial work, editorial, fashion, film, food, forensic, industrial, architectural, portraiture and wedding photography, sports and travel etc.

COURSE OUTLINE

Component 1: Personal Portfolio (*coursework - 60%*)

This portfolio will contain all your photography work produced during Y10 and 11. You will be expected to research themes, develop personal ideas and make observations related to photographers/artists that you have studied. You will explore your own ideas and develop your skills using different media and techniques. Your supporting studies are as important as the finished pieces and so your books should be full! It is essential that your work is always presented to a high standard.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (*exam - 40%*)

The assignment consists of a broad based thematic starting point set by the exam board. The topic will be given to you in early February of Year 11, and you will have eight weeks of preparation time before a final ten-hour exam. Again, your preparatory material and research are as important as your final piece of work.



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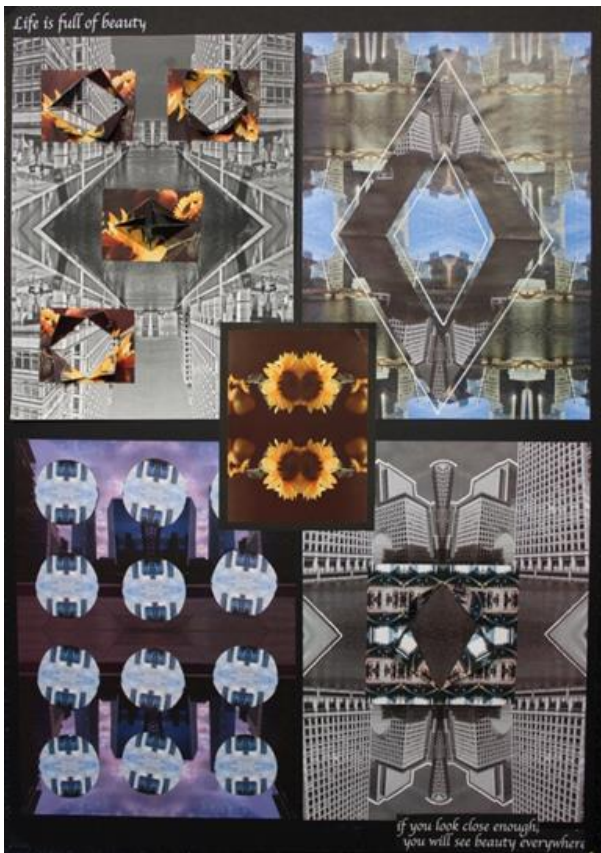


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Examples of GCSE ART: Visual Arts and Photography work produced by St Paul's Way Trust School students.



Participation

In addition to your academic courses, you will also have the opportunity to participate in a range of other activities. These will complement your GCSE courses, offering you new experiences and teaching you a variety of skills. These activities will help you to write distinctive and detailed applications for future study and employment. Everyone will have GCSEs, but what additional experiences can you write about that will help you to stand out from the crowd? There are many opportunities for you to get involved, for example, in music, drama, sports and debating. In addition to these we offer three particular programmes for which you may wish to sign up.

Business Links

At St Paul's Way School, we aspire that all our graduates progress into a career that is tailored to their personal ambitions, and which allows them to realise their full potential. As part of SPW's robust careers programme, and in line with Gatsby Benchmark 6, all students will take part in work experience during Year 10. Our students have previously gained placements at: Morgan Stanley, NHS, Queen Mary University of London and Bank of America. There are further opportunities for students in smaller groups to take part in workshops, programmes and visits throughout the year relating to their subjects and interests.

Key Dates

Wednesday 21st January 2026

Year 9 Pathways Event

Friday 23rd January 2026

Pathways Online Form opens.

The online form is available via email, the school website, the Year 9 Teams Classroom, or via the QR code below. You will need to be signed in to your Microsoft account to complete this form. You will only be able to submit this form once.

Friday 30th January 2026

Deadline for students to complete Pathways Online Form.

Friday 27th February 2025

School will share the final allocated subjects with students and parents.

Year 9 Pathways 2026 Form

